Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~preferentially~~ inhibiting proliferation of genetically engineered T cells in an animal ~~containing them~~, wherein ~~the~~ said genetically engineered T cells are introduced to the animal and said genetically engineered T cells comprise ~~include~~ a nucleic acid encoding a mutated macrolide binding protein (MBP) selected from an FK506-binding protein (FKBP), cyclophilin, calcineurin, and FKBP:rapamycin associated protein (FRAP),

wherein said ~~which~~ method comprises administering to the animal a macrolide which binds to the mutated MBP or forms a complex including the mutated MBP, thereby ~~and which~~ inhibitsing proliferation of T cells expressing the mutated MBP,

wherein said genetically engineered T cells are autologous or allogeneic to the animal, and

wherein, relative to the wild-type MBP, the mutated MBP contains an altered amino acid sequence and has an altered specificity for binding to or forming a complex with a macrolide.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the macrolide binds to or forms a complex with the mutated MBP with a dissociation constant, Kd, at least one order of magnitude less than its Kd for binding to or forming a complex with wild-type MBP.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the macrolide binds to or forms a complex with the mutated MBP with a dissociation constant, Kd, at least three orders of magnitude less than its Kd for binding to or forming a complex with wild-type MBP.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the nucleic acid was introduced into ~~the~~ said T cell *ex vivo* by DNA transfection.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the nucleic acid was introduced into ~~the~~ said T cell *ex vivo* by virus-mediated transduction.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the nucleic acid was introduced into ~~the~~ said T cell *ex vivo* by homologous recombination.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the macrolide is an analog of rapamycin, FK506 or cyclosporin.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the animal is a mammal.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the animal is a human.

26-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the expression of the mutated nucleic acid is transcriptionally regulated by a T-cell specific transcriptional regulatory sequence.

30-38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently amended) A method for providing an animal comprising genetically engineered ~~which contains~~ T cells, wherein the proliferation of ~~which~~ said T cells is ~~may be~~ preferentially inhibited, ~~the~~ said method comprising introducing into said animal said genetically engineered T cells, which ~~containing~~ comprise a nucleic acid encoding a mutated macrolide binding protein (MBP), wherein

(a) ~~the~~ said mutated MBP is selected from an FK506-binding protein (FKBP), cyclophilin, calcineurin, and FKBP:rapamycin associated protein (FRAP); and

(b) relative to the wild-type MBP, the mutated MBP contains an altered amino acid sequence has an altered specificity for binding to or forming a complex with a macrolide.

40-45. (Canceled)